

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 remain in the application. Claims 24-28 are newly presented.

Claims 1-3, 9,10-16,18-20, 22, 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polcyn et al (US patent 5,930,792).

On March 25, 2004 Applicants representative conducted an interview with the examiner in the present application. During that interview, Applicants representative presented the position that the references cited by the examiner do not teach all of the elements of the claimed invention and that the examiner has not considered the claimed invention as a whole.

For example, Applicants representatives explained that the claim language, in claim 1 for example, that recites:

maintaining the set of states associated with said object and state transitions for indicating valid transitions among states in the set of states and maintaining an indication of a current state of said object wherein said current state is a state selected from said set of states;

providing said object, an indication of said current state, and an indication of selected state transitions based on said current state to said second computer whereby the second computer may only perform the state transitions based on said selected state transitions.

(Emphasis added.) Independent claims 10 and 19 have similar limitations. For example, claim 10 recites:

a data structure for at least one object in a set of objects in said object management system, comprising for said at least one object ***a set of states in which said object may be maintained, a set of transitions between said states, and a current state;***

computer-readable server instructions that receive requests from a client for said object and *retrieve from said data structure at least a subset of transitions between states, where said subset of transitions is based upon transitions out of the current state;* and

computer-readable server instructions that return to said client an indication of at least the subset of transitions between states.

(Emphasis added.) For example, claim 19 recites:

transmitting the request to a server that maintain a data structure for the selected object comprising *a set of states in which the object may exist, a set of transitions between said states, and a current object state, whereby the server provides an indication of a subset of transitions between states, where said subset of transitions is based upon transitions out of the current object state;*
and

providing an indication of *operations that may be performed upon said object where said operations are based upon the subset of transitions* provided by the server.

As Applicants representative indicated, Polcyn does not teach or suggest maintaining states in which *the object may exist*, but rather merely teaches “a set of software state machines for defining a hierarchical menu structure by restricting movement between links.” Notably the Polcyn states do not address the current state of the object itself. On the contrary, Polcyn teaches that a user can move from one document to another only in a particular order. “For instance, the user has entered at Document A, which allowed the state machine to increment to the state which indicates that the next three documents, B, C, D, are legal moves, but not document E.” The present invention, on the other hand, is directed to changing the state of a particular object.

During the interview, the examiner agreed that Polcyn does not teach the an object itself changes states, but indicated that the language of the claim should more clearly point out this distinction. Accordingly, Applicants have amend the claims to more clearly indicate that the objects themselves change state and that the state transitions transition the object to a state different from its current state. As such, Applicants submit that claims 1-3,9,10-16,18-20,22,23 patentably define over the art of record.

Inasmuch as claims 2-3, 9-16, 18-20 and 22-23 depend from claims 1, 10 and 19, Applicants submit that they also patentably define over the references for at least the reasons outlined above.

Claims 4, 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polcyn et al. (US patent 5,930,792) in view of APA (Admit Prior Art).

Inasmuch as claims 4 and 21 depend from independent claims 1 and 19, Applicants submit that they also patentable define over the cited references at least for the reasons outlined above in connection with the independent claims.

Claims 5 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polcyn et al. (US patent 5,930,792) in view of APA (Admit Prior Art) and further in view of Kato et al. (method and device for expanding WW browser function).

Inasmuch as claims 5 and 17 depend from independent claims 1 and 10, Applicants submit that they also patentable define over the cited references at least for the reasons outlined above in connection with the independent claims.

Claims 6, 7, 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polcyn et al (US patent 5,930,792) in view of APA (Admit Prior Art) and further in view of Minow (US Patent 6,418,464).

Inasmuch as claims 6, 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 1, Applicants submit that they also patentable define over the cited references at least for the reasons outlined above in connection with the independent claims.

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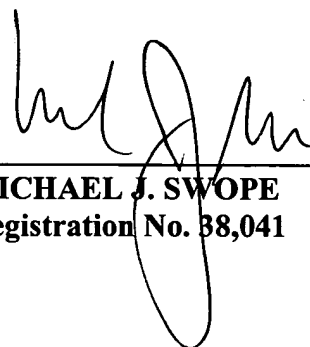
Applicants submit that newly presented claims 24-28 patentably define over the art of record at least inasmuch as the claims recite "a plurality of transitions that the object may take to change its state from the current state to at least another state."

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of the Office Action and a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-28 are respectfully solicited.

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Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439



MICHAEL J. SWOPE
Registration No. 38,041